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PICKERING'S HYLA ACTIVE IN JANUARY.

On January 30, 1914, I heard two Spring Peepers (*Hyla pickeringii*) singing at noon in a swamp at Brookhaven, Long Island, N. Y. There would be a series of half a dozen or more peeps followed by a silence of about five minutes; the frogs responded twice to my whistled imitations of their calls. The temperature of the air was 56° F. in the shade; there was a gentle wind blowing from the southwest, and the sun shone dimly through fog clouds. Much ice was still to be seen on the ponds; the temperature had been warm for several days previously.

FRANK OVERTON,

Patchogue, N. Y.

A NOTE ON THE PURRING GOURAMI.

Although not as highly colored as most of the Labyrinth-fishes from the Far East, *Otenops vittatus*, commonly called the Purring Gourami, commands more than usual attention because of its being able to produce purring sounds.

It is a small fish, seldom over 2 inches in length, and not often seen in aquaria in this country, as it is very delicate as regards changes in temperature and handling. Only recently has it been my good fortune to have a few pairs of them for any length of time.

The purring sound is heard very frequently during the mating period; it is a short, sharp brrr-brrr, like the sound produced by throwing pebbles in rapid succession against glass. In doing it the fish, with gill-covers, tail and fins extended, shakes himself violently, and the purring, according to its strength, can be heard distinctly for a distance of 25 feet and more.

RICHARD DORN,

Upper Montclair, N. J.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OBSERVED AT BEVERLY, N. J.

During the past five years I have noted and collected the following amphibians and reptiles in my locality:

- Plethodon erythronotus*—Under logs in woodland.
- Spelerpes bislineatus*—Under stones in creek bottoms.
- Desmognathus fusca*—Under stones in streams.
- Bufo americanus*—Gardens.
- Acris gryllus crepitans*—Pond edges.
- Hyla pickeringii*—Marshes and gardens.
- Hyla versicolor*—Garden.
- Rana pipiens*—Grassy pools.
- Rana palustris*—Meadows and contiguous woodland.
- Rana catesbeiana*—Creek borders.
- Rana sylvatica*—Wet woodland.
- Natrix sipedon*—Creeks and river meadows.
- Bascanion constrictor*—Low, wet wood growths.
- Thamnophis sirtalis*—Low meadows. (Both striped and spotted.)
- Heterodon platirhinos*—Dry fields and woodlands. (Both dark and light phases.)
- Sceloporus undulatus*—Pine lands.
- Chelydra serpentina*—Creeks.
- Kinosternon pensylvanicum*—Muddy streams, takes the brook.
- Sternotherus odoratus*—Muddy streams, takes the brook.
- Chrysemys picta*—Creeks.
- Clemmys muhlenbergii*—Meadow streams.
- Clemmys insculpta*—Low woods.
- Clemmys guttata*—Creeks.
- Terrapene carolina*—Meadows.

J. F. STREET,

Beverly, N. J.

RIO GRANDE INDIAN FISH TRAPS

Fish traps are made according to a widespread fashion. Two converging walls of brush that point downstream are built. At the center is an opening where a log is placed to form a waterfall. Below this waterfall is a willow mat which is carefully screened in from the side. The fish are swept out towards the end of this mat, which is above water, and are unable to go back over the little waterfall.

Large fish-nets are made by communal labor out of the fiber of Indian hemp and the wide-leaved yucca. Each man makes his piece of net and brings it to a meeting. There the different pieces are patched together to form a large seine. The mesh is made even by the use of a flat stick over which the tying is done. Stones are used for sinkers and gourds for floaters.

The throwing of the net is a communal enterprise and the whole village profits by it. The governor of the pueblo has charge, and before the event comes off either he or the war captain goes to the river bank and throws in an offering of cornmeal to placate the river spirit. After the fish have been eaten, many Indians throw the bones back to the river, believing they will again become fish. Others throw the vertebræ on ant hills so the ants will clean them nicely and they can be used as beads.

H. J. SPINDEN,

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EGG-LAYING OF THE · LOGGERHEAD TURTLE.

At Cape Lookout, in North Carolina, on July 27, 1913, at about midnight, my captain, with one of the other members of my crew, noticed the fresh tracks of a turtle, and upon following them for a short distance, came upon a very large loggerhead

turtle laying her eggs. His description, which I know to be reliable, follows:

He states that the turtle had almost buried herself in the sand; that the laying of each egg, at intervals of ten to fifteen seconds, was accompanied by a convulsive movement; that she appeared not to notice their presence while laying, although he struck her. He received 25 or 30 of the eggs in his hand as they were laid. After she had finished laying she filled the hole, and, with her flippers, smoothed the sand over, then showed a disposition to defend her nest by remaining near it, but they handled her roughly and she started for the sea, more than 100 yards distant. The nest was opened and the balance of the eggs secured. The entire number laid was only 87, which is the smallest number I have ever known to be laid by a logger-head turtle. In my experience they usually lay about 150.

R. J. COLES,

Danville, Va.

PADDLEFISH FOUND IN MUD.

During the construction of a dam across the Nolichucky River near Greeneville, Tenn., an area of the river bottom was exposed to view by means of a cofferdam on November 9th, 1913.

All the water was pumped out, and during the pumping process no fish were observed in the water.

The rock bed of the river was covered by two feet of clean sand, and over this was three or four inches of fine silt. In this silt were found half a dozen living fish called by the natives Shovel-nosed Catfish, identified at the American Museum of Natural History as Paddlefish, *Polyodon spathula*. These fish ranged from 2 to 2½ feet in length, the head and paddle being about half the length of the fish.

WARREN TRAVELL,

New York, N. Y.

